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first time. The same criticism holds elsewhere in the treatment of alternation of generations. Though both are confessedly stumbling-blocks for beginners, it seems certain that a development of these matters phylogenetically would have been more logical and more successful.

The consideration of adaptation to environment is comprehensive and replete with suggestions. Occasional inaccuracies creep in, and in a few instances doubtful or debatable explanations are presented as certain. The ecological factors considered are gravity, mechanical forces, heat, light, moisture, soil composition, and biological environment. Following this a chapter is given to the treatment of hydrophytes and one to xerophytes. Halophytes and mesophytes are also considered briefly. The treatment is good in the main, but in certain places it lacks coördination. This is doubtless due to lack of space, since the detail itself has apparently required pruning. The last two chapters deal with the intimate processes in the life of the individual and of the species. Protoplasm is treated of in a peculiarly striking and clear manner. Nutrition, growth, movement, protection likewise receive elementary treatment in simple logical fashion. The maintenance of the species, involving the phenomena and problems of propagation and reproduction, is clearly stated and is most suggestive.

Books, like people, are well dressed when the dress is not noticed. Until they attain this standard, however, it is a distinct pleasure to have to do with a book in so many ways faultless as the present one in the art of printer and engraver. When it is borne in mind that it belongs to the dubious class of "state-printed" books, it is at once seen how painstaking the author must have been to have produced a book of such uniform excellence of press-work and illustration.

It is novel and encouraging that a book of this sort should be published by the Board of Regents of a large university for the instruction of the people of the state. It is a distinct misfortune that the book is not on the market, as it should be found as a reference or reading book in all schools in which botany is taught.

FREDERICK E. CLEMENTS.

The Local Floras of New England. — In 1890 Dr. Britton published a list of state and local floras of the United States and British America, which has been of very great use to botanists working on the classification and distribution of our native plants. One hundred and six titles appear for the New England States. Miss

Mary A. Day, of the Gray Herbarium, has just distributed a pamphlet,¹ reprinted from Vol. I of *Rhodora*, in which 258 titles of books and papers referring to the flora of New England are cited, bringing the record down to the end of 1899. Miss Day's painstaking care, and the exceptional facilities afforded by the great libraries clustered about Boston and the interest in her work of the members of the New England Botanical Club, have resulted in the compilation of a bibliographic aid which should be in every botanical library in the country.

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Botanical Notes. — The *Tenth Annual Report* of the President of Columbia University states that the herbarium and the principal part of the botanical library of that institution have been transferred to the New York Botanical Garden, while for the future the advanced work in botany of the University will be carried on in the laboratories of the Garden. By this combination of the resources of the University with those of the Garden, the latter gains, it is stated, at the beginning of its career, a scientific equipment and a scientific importance which otherwise it could hope to achieve only slowly, while the University receives at once the advantage of the added facilities of the Garden, which, now considerable, will become of the greatest importance as the years go on. The Garden has inaugurated a new publication, under the title of *Journal*, which is intended to give popular information on the development and work of the establishment, and is to be edited by Dr. MacDougal.

The "Talcott Arboretum" of Mount Holyoke College, as appears from a recent number of *American Gardening*, is a glazed structure covering 6430 square feet and with a maximum height of 27 feet 9 inches.

The question of the classification of odors and their use in distinguishing things is again raised by W. C. Alpers in a paper on "Odor Standards," in the *Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association*, Vol. XLVII, p. 221. He suggests a classification for the use of pharmacists, based on the chemical compounds which produce the odor sensations by reacting on the olfactory serum. Odor classifications, like that of Linnæus, and that of flower odors by Delpino, have their value at present, but rest on a more indefinite foundation than that proposed by Mr. Alpers. Kerner has given

¹ Day, M. A. *The Local Floras of New England*. 8vo, 28 pp. Cambridge, 1899. 35 cents.